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| 09/585,151      | 06/01/2000  | Richard B. Himmelstein | HIM-PT002.2         | 5239             |

3624 7590 12/28/2004

VOLPE AND KOENIG, P.C.  
UNITED PLAZA, SUITE 1600  
30 SOUTH 17TH STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

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| EXAMINER |
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NEURAUTER, GEORGE C

|          |              |
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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2143

DATE MAILED: 12/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Applicati n No.

09/585,151

Applicant(s)

HIMMELSTEIN, RICHARD B.

Examiner

George C. Neurauter, Jr.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 August 2004.  
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-16,20 and 36-38 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-16,20 and 36-38 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

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**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1, 3-16, 20, and 36-38 are currently presented and have been examined.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments, see page 8, lines 11-16 of the response, filed 11 August 2004, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1, 3-16, and 20 under "HTML" in view of Bowen have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of the newly discovered prior art based on the amendments made that prompted a new search.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for

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establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. Claims 1, 5, 7-12, and 36-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) as being unpatentable over "HTML 4.0 Specification"

("HTML") in view of US Patent 5 974 416 A to Anand et al.

Regarding claim 1, "HTML" discloses a system for accessing and retrieving information on the Internet comprising:

a data table ("HTML table") stored on a user's computing device ("user agent") comprising:

a plurality of columns (Chapter 11, section 11.2.4 "Column groups: the COLGROUP and COL elements"), each of said columns having a heading ("header"; Chapter 11, section 11.1 "Introduction to Tables", paragraph beginning "Table cells may contain either header..." and section 11.2.6 "Table cells: The TH and TD elements"); and

at least one row (Chapter 11, section 11.2.3 "Row Groups: the THEAD, TFOOT, and TBODY elements") having a plurality of cells corresponding to said plurality of columns, said row for storing information defined by said plurality of column headings

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(Chapter 11, section 11.1 "Introduction to Tables", paragraph beginning "Table cells may contain either header..." and section 11.2.6 "Table cells: The TH and TD elements");

wherein each of said plurality of cells can be activated to perform at least one action related to said stored information within said cell. (Chapter 11, section 11.2.1 "The TABLE element", "onclick"; Chapter 18, section 18.2.3 "Intrinsic events", "onclick")

"HTML" does not disclose a key phrase field for defining a desired search and a search unit for accessing information stored on at least one database on the Internet that matches the information in said key phrase field and in each of said column headings, said search unit storing said accessed information in said data table, however, "HTML" does disclose wherein the column headings of a data table are used to correspond to cells (Chapter 11, section 11.4.2 "Categorizing cells")

Anand discloses a key phrase field for defining a desired search ("query" made through a "browser") and a search unit ("proxy") for accessing information stored on at least one database on the Internet that matches the information in said key phrase field and in each of said column headings (column 2, line 64-column 3, line 8; column 6, lines 26-28; column 11,

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lines 43-53), said search unit storing said accessed information in said data table (column 7, lines 59-62)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of these references since Anand discloses that the invention enables improved data transfer of data tables between a client and a database server on a network such as the Internet (column 2, lines 3-15). In view of this specific advantage and that both references as directed to transferring data table data between a database and a client, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the teachings of these references and considered both references to be analogous to one another based on their related fields of endeavor.

Regarding claim 5, "HTML" and Anand disclose the system of claim 1.

"HTML" discloses whereby said stored information includes an e-mail address, and said at least one action comprises sending an e-mail to said e-mail address. (Chapter 2, section 2.1.1 "Introduction to URIs", "mailto")

Regarding claim 7, "HTML" and Anand disclose the system of claim 1.

"HTML" discloses the system further including a cursor and an activity menu having a plurality of activity buttons (Chapter

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17, section 17.2.1 "Control types", "menus" and "buttons"); whereby each of said activity buttons defines an action related to said stored information within a cell. (Chapter 17, section 17.2.1 "Control types", "push buttons")

Regarding claim 8, "HTML" and Anand disclose the system of claim 7.

"HTML" discloses whereby said cursor highlights a cell (Chapter 11, section 11.2.6 "Table cells: The TH and TD elements", "onfocus"; Chapter 18, section 18.2.3 "Intrinsic events", "onfocus") and at least one of said plurality of action buttons change to reflect said stored information. (Chapter 17, section 17.5 "The BUTTON element", "onfocus"; Chapter 18, section 18.2.3 "Intrinsic events", "onfocus")

Regarding claim 9, "HTML" and Anand disclose the system of claim 1.

"HTML" discloses whereby each row includes a row heading. (Chapter 11, section 11.1 "Introduction to Tables", paragraph beginning "Table cells may contain either header..." and section 11.2.6 "Table cells: The TH and TD elements")

Regarding claim 10, "HTML" and Anand disclose the system of claim 9.

"HTML" discloses whereby said row headings and said column headings are interchangeable. (Chapter 11, section 11.1

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"Introduction to Tables", paragraph beginning "Table cells may contain either header..." and section 11.2.6 "Table cells: The TH and TD elements")

Regarding claim 11, "HTML" and Anand disclose the system of claim 1.

"HTML" does not expressly disclose further including a centralized database for storing information, whereby said system accesses and retrieves information within said database, however, Anand does disclose this limitations (column 2, lines 3-6)

Claim 11 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 11.

Regarding claim 12, "HTML" and Anand disclose the system of claim 11.

"HTML" does not disclose the system further including a website, for maintaining said centralized database, however, "HTML" does disclose the use of a web site or "machine hosting the resource" to store information (Chapter 2, section 2.2.1 "Introduction to URIs")

Anand discloses the above limitations (column 4, line 62-column 5, line 11, specifically column 4, lines 64-65 and column 5, lines 3-8).



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Claim 12 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 12.

Regarding claim 36, "HTML" and Anand disclose the system of claim 1.

"HTML" does not expressly disclose wherein each of said columns includes a user-definable heading, however, "HTML" does disclose wherein each column includes a defined heading (page 2, section 11.1 "Introduction to tables", specifically the paragraph "Table calls may either contain...")

Anand suggests that a user may define a data table and its properties including a column that is received by the user, the received table further defines a stored data table (column 7, lines 59-62).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of these references since Anand discloses above that a user may define a data table however they may choose. In view of these suggestions and that both references are directed to user manipulation of data tables, one of ordinary skill would have been motivated to combine these references and would have considered them to be analogous to one another based on their related fields of endeavor.

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Regarding claim 37, "HTML" and Anand disclose the system of claim 1.

"HTML" does not expressly disclose wherein said at least one action includes accessing additional information based upon said stored information within said activated cell, the additional information also being stored in said data table, however, "HTML" does disclose wherein at least one action includes activating a cell, wherein information is being stored in said data table (Chapter 11, section 11.2.1 "The TABLE element", "onclick"; Chapter 18, section 18.2.3 "Intrinsic events", "onclick").

Anand discloses accessing additional information based upon stored information within a cell, the additional information also being stored in said data table (column 2, line 64-column 3, line 8; column 6, lines 26-28; column 7, lines 59-62; column 11, lines 43-53).

Claim 37 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 37.

Regarding claim 38, "HTML" and Anand disclose the system of claim 8.

"HTML" does not expressly disclose wherein said plurality of activity buttons includes a search button, whereby said key phrase field is replaced by said stored information in said

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highlighted cell and a further search is performed, however, "HTML" does disclose a plurality of activity buttons (Chapter 17, section 17.2.1 "Control types", "menus" and "buttons") containing stored information (Chapter 11, section 11.1 "Introduction to Tables", paragraph beginning "Table cells may contain either header..." and section 11.2.6 "Table cells: The TH and TD elements") in a highlighted cell (Chapter 11, section 11.2.6 "Table cells: The TH and TD elements", "onfocus"; Chapter 18, section 18.2.3 "Intrinsic events", "onfocus")

Anand discloses that a search is conducted based upon a user input ("query" from a "browser"), whereby said key phrase field is replaced by said stored information and a further search is performed. (column 2, line 64-column 3, line 8, specifically column 2, line 64-column 3, line 3; column 6, lines 26-28; column 7, lines 59-62; column 11, lines 43-53)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Anand to include a search button based upon the disclosures of "HTML" and Anand since Anand discloses that performing a search based on the contents of a data table initiated by a client enables further refinement of the data contained within the data table (column 2, lines 2-21; column 2, line 64-column 3, line 8) and that a user can initiate the query through the use of a web

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browser (column 5, lines 12-20). In view of these specific advantages and disclosures and that the references are directed towards transferring tabular data in an HTML format, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the teachings of these references and considered the references to be analogous to one another based on their related fields of endeavor.

4. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "HTML" and Anand et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of "Hyperactions in a Markup Language" ("Hyperactions").

Regarding claim 3, "HTML" and Anand disclose the system of claim 1.

"HTML" and Anand do not expressly disclose whereby said stored information includes a phone number, and said at least one action comprises connecting the system with said phone number, however, "Hyperactions" does disclose these limitations (paragraph beginning "Disclosed is a means of controlling...", lines 1-8)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of these references since "Hyperactions" discloses that the system allows the user to operate hardware using HTML (paragraph

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beginning "Disclosed is a means of controlling...", lines 4-8). In view of this specific advantage described above in "Hyperactions" and wherein each reference is directed towards using HTML documents and their associated elements to operate the system, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the teachings of these references and would have considered them to be analogous to one another based on their related fields of endeavor.

Regarding claim 4, "HTML" and Anand disclose the system of claim 1.

"HTML" and Anand do not expressly disclose whereby said stored information includes a facsimile number, and said at least one action comprises sending a facsimile to said facsimile number, however, "Hyperactions" does disclose these limitations (paragraph beginning "Disclosed is a means of controlling...", lines 1-8)

Claim 4 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 3 also apply to claim 4.

5. Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "HTML" and Anand as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of "Distributed Databases" ("Distributed").

Regarding claim 13, "HTML" and Anand disclose the system of claim 12.

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"HTML" and Anand do not disclose the system further including a plurality of databases, said plurality of databases being linked to said centralized database, whereby said system accesses and retrieves information within said plurality of databases.

"Distributed" does disclose these limitations (the sentence "A collection of several different...")

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of these references since "Distributed" discloses that the plurality of database enables the client to obtain data from the plurality of databases only from the centralized database (the sentence "A collection of several different..."). In view of these specific advantages and that both references are directed to database data retrieval, one of ordinary skill would have been motivated to combine these references and would have considered them to be analogous to one another based on their related fields of endeavor.

Regarding claim 14, "HTML", Anand, and "Distributed" disclose the system of claim 13.

"HTML" does not disclose the system further including an input unit, for inputting information into said centralized database, however, Anand does disclose an input unit for

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inputting information into said centralized database (column 3, lines 5-8)

Claim 14 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claims 1 and 13 also apply to claim 14.

Regarding claim 15, "HTML", Anand, and "Distributed" disclose the system of claim 14.

"HTML" does not disclose the system further including a verification unit, for verifying said input information, however, Anand does disclose these limitations (column 6, lines 60-64; column 21, lines 17-52)

Claim 15 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claims 1 and 13 also apply to claim 15.

6. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "HTML", Anand, and "Distributed" as applied to claims 13-15 above, and further in view of "Module mod\_log\_common" ("mod\_log\_common").

Regarding claim 16, "HTML", Anand, and "Distributed" disclose the system of claim 15.

"HTML" and Anand do not disclose the system whereby said verification unit further includes tagging means, for tagging all input information with the date of entry, time of entry and origin of said input information, however, Anand does disclose a

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verification unit (column 6, lines 60-64; column 21, lines 17-52).

Claim 16 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claims 1 and 13 also apply to claim 16.

"mod\_log\_common" discloses a unit further includes tagging means, for tagging all input information with the date of entry, time of entry and origin of said input information (page 1, specifically "ident" and "date")

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the verification unit to include the features disclosed in "mod\_log\_common" since "mod\_log\_common" discloses that the unit enables the logging of requests made to a server in a common format (page 1, the sentence "It provides for...")

In view of this specific advantage disclosed in "mod\_log\_common" and wherein the references are directed to requests made to a server by a client, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the verification unit to include the features of "mod\_log\_common" and considered the references to be analogous to one another based on the related fields of endeavor.



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7. Claims 6 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "HTML" and Anand as applied to claim 5 above, and further in view of US Patent 5 826 034 A to Albal.

Regarding claim 6, "HTML" and Anand disclose the system of claim 5.

"HTML" and Anand do not disclose whereby said at least one action further comprises sending a facsimile to said e-mail address, however, Albal does disclose these limitations (column 2, lines 37-59; column 9, lines 8-28, specifically lines 21-25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of these references since Albal discloses that the invention is able to enable a user to send any type of communication by any other type of communication through the use of converting the sent communication into the format of the communication to be received through the Internet (column 2, lines 43-57). In view of these specific advantages described above in Albal and wherein the references are directed towards sending data via a network such as the Internet, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the teachings of these references and would have considered the references to be analogous to one another based on their related fields of endeavor.

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Regarding claim 20, "HTML" and Anand disclose the system of claim 5.

"HTML" and Anand do not disclose wherein said at least one action further includes providing a voice connection to said e-mail address, however, Albal does disclose these limitations (column 2, lines 37-59; column 9, lines 8-28, specifically lines 21-25).

Claim 20 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 6 also apply to claim 20.

#### **Conclusion**

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent 6 457 066 B1 to Mein et al;

Dar, Shaul et al. "DTL's DataSpot: Database Exploration Using Plain Language", Proceedings of the 24<sup>th</sup> VLDB Conference, New York, USA, 1998, pages 645-648.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this

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action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

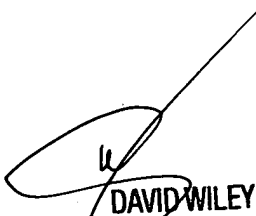
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George C. Neurauter, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9AM to 5:30PM Eastern.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

gcn



DAVID WILEY  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100